

ATTACHMENT E**Proposed ERP Implementability Criteria**

The ERP Strategic Plan describes a conceptual framework and process for refining, evaluating, prioritizing, implementing, monitoring, and revising ERP actions. This conceptual framework includes the identification and application of selection criteria for screening, refining, and prioritizing ERP actions for implementation. The ERP Strategic Plan identifies three primary categories of selection criteria for refining and prioritizing ERP actions:

1. Ecological Benefit;
2. Information Value; and
3. Implementability/Public Support.

Using this conceptual framework and selection criteria as a starting point, the ERP Focus Group has examined the concept of the third suggested criteria (implementability/public support) in more detail, including how such criteria should be defined and when and how they should be applied within an overall priority setting process, including how they should be balanced with other important considerations/criteria (such as ecological benefit and information value criteria). With regard to specific criterion, the ERP Focus Group focused only on implementability criteria. The group did not review or discuss specific ecological benefit or information value criteria. A list of proposed implementability criteria developed by the ERP Focus Group for use in setting priorities and selecting projects for ERP implementation is presented below.

The purpose of these implementability criteria is to ensure that issues related to the overall implementability of a proposed action are considered and evaluated in the prioritization and project selection process. The criteria themselves are meant to be screens; they are not intended to function as "on-off" switches. Rather these criteria are intended to represent important factors for evaluating the relative merits of various options. For example, one suggested implementability criterion at the project selection level is "ease of implementation." It is applied not to eliminate projects that are more challenging to undertake, but rather to rank one project characteristic against numerous other criteria that assess implementability. Furthermore, "ease of implementation" in and of itself is not necessarily an overall preferred criterion, given the adaptive management approach embedded in the ERP.

The ERP Focus Group has recommended that implementability criteria for selection of ERP actions be applied both at a regional level, where a number of activities must be planned and coordinated, and at the local, project-specific level with outreach and involvement of local officials in affected areas including, but not limited to, watershed groups, local conservancies, local planning groups, property owners, and native American tribes. At the regional level of planning in particular, multiple opportunities exist for achieving multiple CALFED objectives and minimizing conflicts across Program actions, one of the key factors identified in the ERP Strategic Plan. The

criteria listed below were developed and refined based on an initial inventory of potential criteria derived from previous ERP Proposal Solicitation Packages (PSPs), the ERP Strategic Plan, previous suggestions by stakeholders, and materials developed by the ERP Strategic Plan Core Team.

Regional Implementability Criteria

At the regional level, implementability criteria should be used as screens that on a broad-brush scale can help determine whether or not a project or action is implementable. These criteria should be applied early in the regional planning process in order to ensure that projects and actions are physically implementable and that coordination to enhance achievement of overall CALFED Program objectives is considered. Local interests including, but not limited to, watershed groups, local conservancies, environmental justice groups, local planning groups, property owners, and Native American tribes are to be involved in application of these criteria, to ensure that decisions are fully informed by local consideration prior to decision-making.

The ERP Focus Group recommends the following broad regional implementability criteria:

1. Infrastructure Criteria

Areas proposed for restoration should be assessed for presence of heavy development or significant existing infrastructure, e.g. large subdivisions, industrial complexes, major interstate and state highways. Areas proposed for restoration should be investigated to determine the potential for imminent or likely land use conflicts.

2. Landscape Resistance Criteria

Projects and actions should be investigated to determine, from an ecosystem restoration perspective, their relative feasibility based on key landscape conditions such as elevation or topography.

3. Sustainability Criteria

Proposed actions or projects should be screened for their sustainability given existing ecological processes such as floods, tides, sea level rise, wind or wave erosion, etc.

4. MSCS Consistency Criteria

Actions or projects should be screened for their consistency with the MSCS.

5. Program Integration/Multiple Program Objectives

These criteria assess the extent to which proposed actions foster the CALFED Program as a whole and are well integrated with other program elements, both within CALFED and with other related programs.

6. Public Outreach and Local Involvement

This criterion ensures public outreach and opportunities for local involvement, input, and advice at the regional planning level has occurred.

Potential Conflicts at the Regional Level

In the process of setting ERP priorities at the regional level, one or more CALFED agencies, or local stakeholders, may disagree regarding the advisability of proceeding on a certain type of project proposed in a regional plan. In its proposed single blueprint for ERP implementation, the ERP Focus Group recommends a conflict resolution process to resolve differences of scientific opinion regarding ERP priorities or the implementability of a particular project or type of projects. In the event that conflict resolution efforts are unsuccessful at resolving the disagreement at the regional level, the conflict may be elevated to the CALFED Policy Group, or the proposed ERP governing entity, for resolution.

Project Level Implementability

At the project selection level, implementability criteria are applied to help reviewers select among competing proposals or among alternatives in the same proposal category. The Focus Group endorses the implementability criteria that have been developed for the current Proposal Selection Process, but encourages the Restoration Program to adopt the two additional implementability criteria, as follows:

- 1. Contribution to Multiple Objectives**

These criteria should be applied at both the regional and the action-specific level. ERP actions should, when possible, interact with other CALFED actions and other related program actions to maximize achievement of synergistic benefits. Examples include ERP actions that benefit Levee Program objectives, or are consistent with the objectives of the AFRP or the Comprehensive Flood Management Study.

- 2. Consistency with Regional Implementation Plans**

A proposed ERP project should be consistent with the appropriate ERP regional plans, with regard to habitat types and quantities proposed for restoration. They should also be consistent with the proposed geographic area in the regional plan.